

State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner
Health Insurance Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015, 4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
State of Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 73-1
Cranston, RI 02920-4407

Attendance

Members

Co-Chair Commissioner Kathleen Hittner, Co-Chair Steve Boyle, David Feeney, Karl Brother, Gregory Allen, Hub Brennan, Manny Echevarria, Pat Mattingly, Rob Cagnetta, Al Charbonneau, Al Kurose, Tammy Lederer

Issuers

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island: Emily Colton

UnitedHealthcare: Lauren Conway

Aetna: Ron Souza

Delta Dental of Rhode Island: Kerrie Bennett

State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner Staff

Linda Johnson, Sarah Nguyen, Jay Garrett, Cory King, Tarah Provencal

Not in Attendance

Howard Dulude, Vivian Weisman, Emmanuel Falck, Mike Souza, Bill Schmiedeknecht, William Martin, David Mathias, Wendy Mackie

Minutes

1. Welcome and Review of March Meeting Minutes

Dr. Hittner and Mr. Boyle called the meeting to order and welcomed all Health Insurance Advisory Council (HIAC) members and others in attendance. The minutes from the March 17, 2015 HIAC meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

It was announced that HIAC member Peter Quattromani was resigning from the commission due to having been appointed to the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island Board of Directors.

2. Update from Reinventing Medicaid Working Group

Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Elizabeth Roberts presented an update on the progress of the Working Group to Reinvent Medicaid.

The working group has 29 members representing consumer advocates, the business community, providers, health insurers and other stakeholders. The group held four community meetings in four different towns in the state and heard public input. All subsequent meetings of the working group were also open to the public.

Secretary Roberts described the group's charge as having two-parts: first, identifying short-term savings for the upcoming fiscal year budget and second, identifying longer term solutions to enhance efficiency in managed care. Much of the immediate budget savings would come from reductions in reimbursement rates to hospitals and providers, but in a manner that would allow the hospitals to recover some of the lost revenue in the following years if they can demonstrate decreased utilization and improved quality.

The working group would see an array of proposals the following day and would make recommendations to the Governor the following week. For more information, please visit the Working Group's [website](#).

It was acknowledged by the Secretary and members of the Council that the challenge of high Medicaid utilization and spending was not unique to Rhode Island.

3. RIREACH Consumer Update

Manny Echevarria provided an update from RIREACH. He noted two minor trends for the months of March and April. One was regarding increased calls about short term insurance policies not authorized in Rhode Island being sold to Rhode Islanders. Manny said there were about a dozen calls concerning these unauthorized policies. Linda Johnson, OHIC, explained that these unapproved plans, purchased through associations, were becoming problematic across the country.

The other issue was calls from consumers who had selected plans from specific carriers based on the plan including their primary care physician, only to find that the doctor was not in-network upon trying to use their coverage. Manny said there were 10 instances in April of this happening.

Manny also reported that calls related to tax issues with 1095 forms had fallen to 10% this month from 20% the previous month.

4. Legislative Update

Tarah Provencal, OHIC, provided an update on the Office's legislative agenda. ACA conforming legislation has been introduced in both chambers of the General Assembly. Tarah also reported on feedback from the Attorney General's office regarding OHIC's legislation to subject Blue Cross Direct Pay plans to the rate review process, saying that OHIC and the Attorney General agreed that all carriers should be subject to the same process but that there was disagreement over which process it should be.

5. Pharmacy Initiatives in Rhode Island

The Council heard a presentation from member and pharmacist David Feeney, accompanied by Ewa Dzwierzynski, PharmD; Kelley Sanzen, PharmD; and Sarah Thompson, PharmD.

Dr. Hittner stated that she invited David Feeney to join the Council in part because of the fact that a substantial part of the previous year's rate increases requested by carriers was attributed to pharmacy costs.

David Feeney began by laying out the scope of the problem and costs to the health care system caused by incorrect use of medication—roughly \$177 billion dollars a year. Ewa Dzwierzynski, president of the Rhode Island Society of Health System Pharmacists, spoke to the Council about current hospital initiatives to identify and prevent pharmacy-related risks. Sarah Thompson, Director of Clinical Services for Coastal Medical, followed up with a presentation on the role of pharmacists in the Patient Centered Medical Home model of care. Finally, Kelly Sanzen, a Clinical Pharmacist with University Medicine, presented on her organization's work in creating an early identification and collaboration program with pharmacists for patients with chronic kidney disease.

The full presentation, entitled "Changing Face of Pharmacy," is available on OHIC's [website](#).

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health Insurance Advisory Council will be May 19, 2015, from 4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the State of Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 73-1, Cranston, RI 02920-4407.